(b) As per information received from Ministry of Labour, the details of number of accidents which occurred in the year 2002 and 2003 (upto 31 -10-2003) are given below :—

Year	No. of fatal accidents	No. of persons killed	No. of Persons seriously injured in fatal accidents	No. of serious accidents	No. of seriously injured persons
2002	133	161	18	831	853
2003	98	133	14	396	404

(c) and (d) Application of modern technology, including laser technology in use of explosives in mining work is done in the mining industry as per felt needs and commercial viability. As such, there is no such proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Mines.

Minerals in Himachal Pradesh

851. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of different kinds of minerals found in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether any plan has been chalked out for commercial exploitations of existing minerals; and

(c) if so, the detail' thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office under administrative control of the Ministry of Mines, important minerals found in Himachal Pradesh are (i) Barytes (in Sirmur district)(ii) Limestone (in Bilaspur, Shimla, Sirmur, Mandi and Solan districts) and (iii) Rock salt (in Mandi district). As per the National Mineral Inventory, *in situ* reserves/resources of

different kind of minerals found in Himachal Pradesh as on 1.4.2000 are as follows:

Quantity of Mineral Reserves in Himachal Pradesh

(In '000 tonnes)

In situ reserves	
Barytes	40930
Gypsum	4446
Limestone	48,45,124
Magnesite	294
Pyrite	2560
Quartz/silica sand	2928
Quartzite	5384
Rock Salt	17802
Conditional Reserves	
Antimony Ore (tonnes)	10588
Metal (tonnes)	174

(b) and (c) As per the Nationaf Mineral Policy 1993, the exploration and exploitation of all the above minerals has been thrown open to private investment and therefore commercial exploitation of minerals take place as per economic viability of the mineral concerned.

Uranium mining in Meghalaya

852. SHRI *R.* K. ANAND: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Uranium Corporation of India has decided to start Uranium mining in the Domiasiat area in Meghalaya;

(b) whether Government has taken any precautionary measures to protect the people of Domiasiat area from any possible radiation that might affect them and the environment;